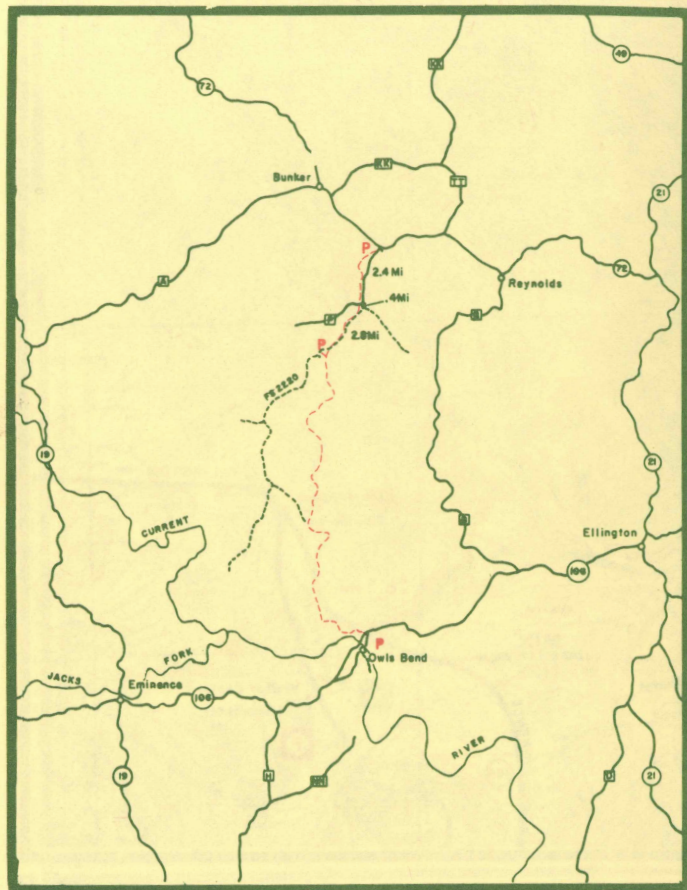
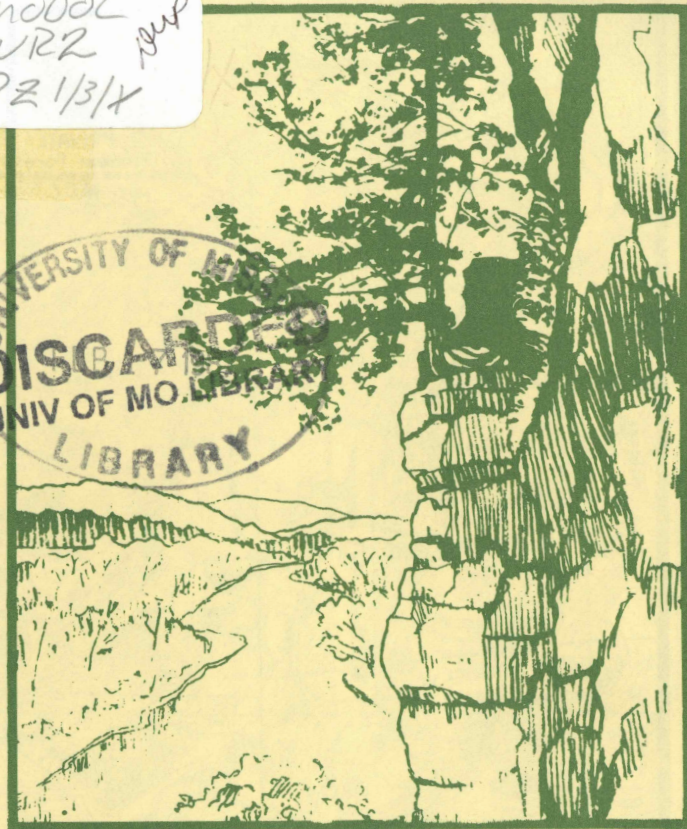


ACCESS MAP



MOOC
NR2
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THE OZARK TRAIL

Blair Creek Section

Blair Creek Section

The Blair Creek Section of the Ozark Trail was one of the first new trail sections to be developed as a result of the Ozark Trail concept. This section crosses the Mark Twain National Forest, Pioneer Forest (a privately owned forest), and lands managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation. This outstanding recreational opportunity is the result of the cooperative efforts of these agencies and landowners; the coordination of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources; and the volunteer efforts of citizen groups, especially the Sierra Club and the Ozark Trail Volunteers.

The Blair Creek Section of the Ozark Trail covers approximately 26.5 miles. It was designed to accommodate *foot traffic only*; it is not open for equestrian use. The northern entry point of this trail section is at the junction of Highway 72 and Highway P in Reynolds County. From that point, the trail leads south to Highway 106 in Shannon County. Trailhead parking is provided for users at Highway P, FS 2220, and Owls Bend. Improved campsites are available in the National Park Service use area at Owls Bend.


The northern six miles of trail follow a major ridge line that divides Big Creek and Blair Creek. It then leaves the ridge and enters the watershed of Blair Creek. The trail follows Blair Creek southward as the creek carves a long, deepening valley in its descent to the Current River. Old home sites, springs, and reverting fields clad with wildflowers dot Blair Creek valley. The trail slowly makes its way to the bluffs high above the Current River and to the most outstanding views of the river along the entire trail.

The Ozark Trail provides a recreational opportunity that can be enjoyed by individuals or families. It can be used for long-distance backpacking, half-hour strolls, day hikes, and weekend trips. It combines clear Ozark streams with dry granite barrens and panoramic mountaintop views with deep forests that filter the summer sun. The Ozark Trail represents the quest of those who backpack not to go the fastest or the furthest, but who go to share the experiences of the first who crossed the land.

There are steps you can take to ensure your safety and to preserve the Ozark Trail for those who follow:

- Camp at least 100 feet from the trail, water, and scenic areas. Leave your campsite so no one will know you were there.

- Treat all water used for drinking or cooking.
- Use a backpacking stove for cooking and build a fire only if necessary. Do not build fires on edges of bluffs, on glades, or in caves. If a fire is necessary, clear the area of combustible material and make sure you drown the fire before leaving. Do not encircle the fire with rocks.
- Bury all human waste at least 100 feet from the trail and water. Pack out everything else you packed in.
- Use caution when crossing streams. At times stream crossings are impossible to negotiate.
- Enjoy plants in their natural setting. Do not collect plants.
- Be considerate of others; respect the rights of private landowners and remember that solitude is also a resource to be protected.

The official Ozark Trail marker is a green  on a white rectangle. A white paint blaze also is used and, in addition, supplemental markers may be used by each agency or landowner. Two tilted markers placed one above the other warn of an abrupt turn in the trail in the direction of tilt. Be alert, and always carry a map and compass.

The development of the Ozark Trail is an ambitious project that has been undertaken by the members of the Ozark Trail Council, which includes state and federal land-managing agencies, trail user groups, and landowners. The trail is envisioned someday to extend from St. Louis through the scenic Ozarks to the Arkansas border, where it will connect with the Ozark Highlands Trail and proceed west to the Arkansas-Oklahoma border. If you would like to learn more about the Ozark Trail or if you have comments concerning the trail, write the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

The Ozark Trail Council has officially adopted the Blair Creek Section as a component of the Ozark Trail and has approved the information contained in this brochure.

LEGEND


THE OZARK TRAIL

PARKING AREA 

CAMPING AREA 

PAVED ROAD 

GRAVEL OR DIRT ROAD 

STREAMS 

CONTOUR 

USFS - United States Forest Service
 NPS - National Park Service
 MDC - Missouri Department of Conservation

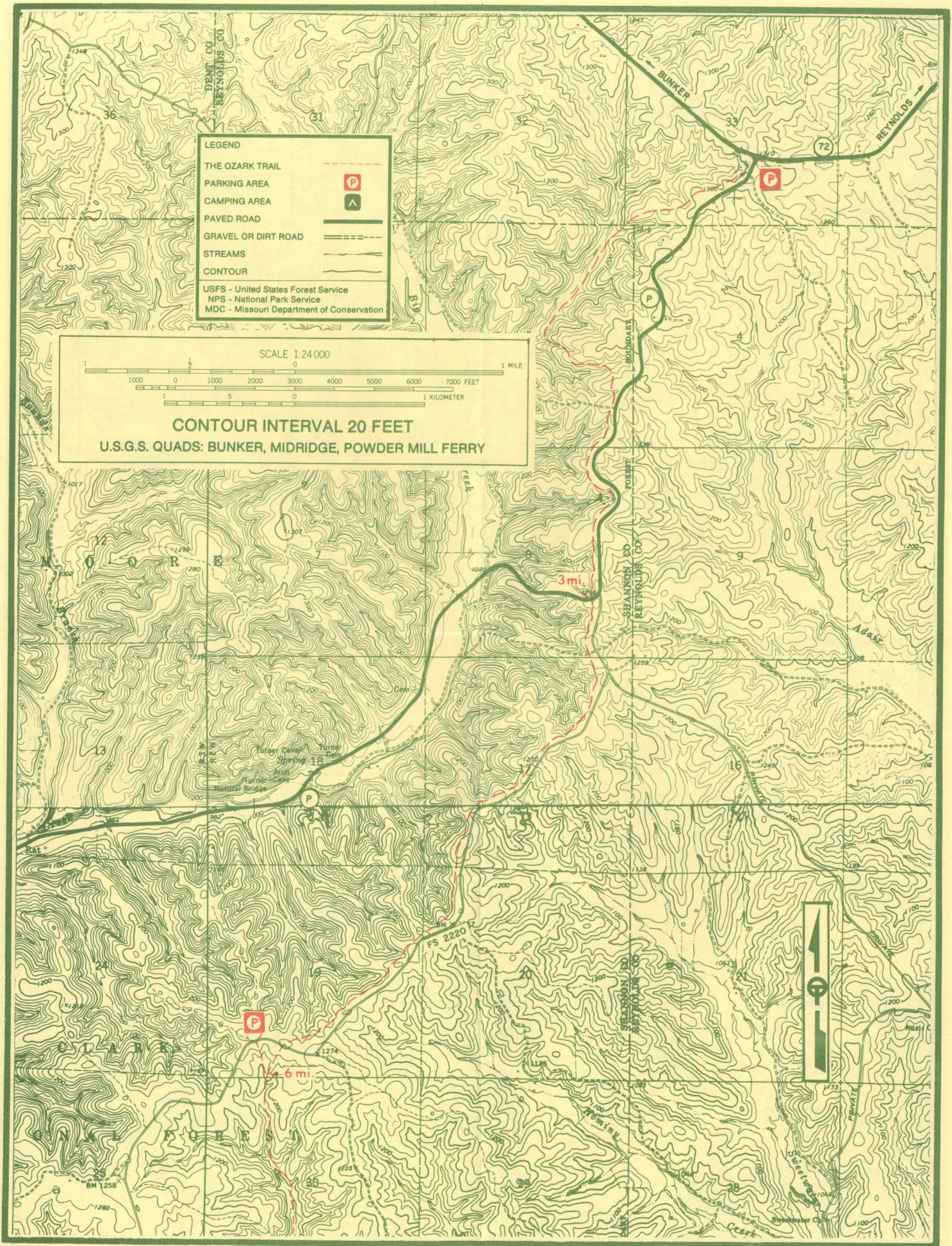
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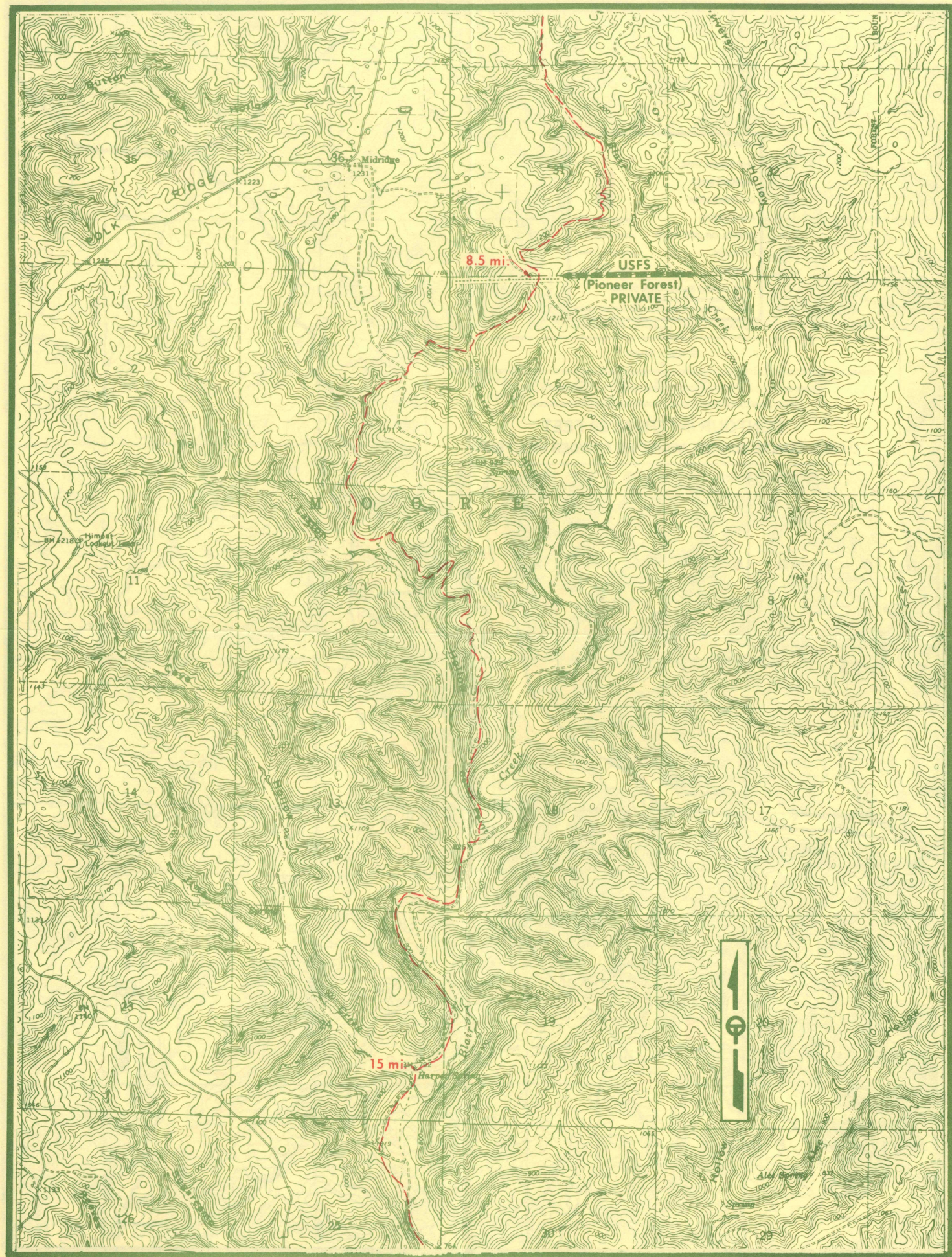
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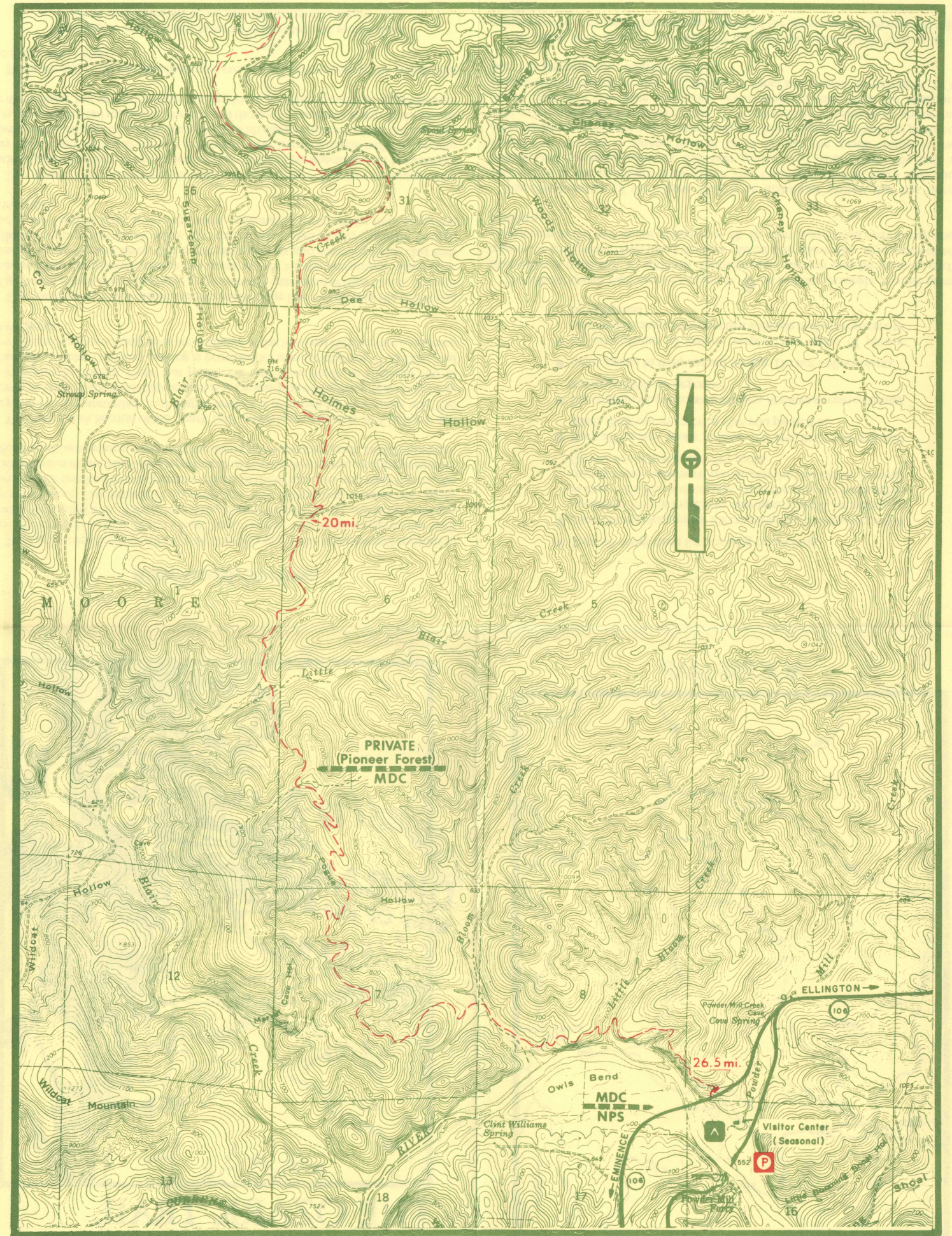
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET

U.S.G.S. QUADS: BUNKER, MIDRIDGE, POWDER MILL FERRY





MAP #2



MAP #3